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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,161	02/03/2004	Ronald C. Tate	1505-0171	1877

7590 11/17/2006
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUNG THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/772,161

Applicant(s)

TATE ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-10 and 17-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore (US 5,066,906).

Regarding claim 2, 8, 9: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, an arrangement comprising: a liquid crystal display (28) having a length (see element 28), a width (see element 28) and a thickness (see element 28); an integrally formed housing comprising a display receptacle (portion of 226, portion of 227 and opposite portion of 227, see figure 6), the display receptacle (portion 226, portion of 227 and opposite portion of 227, see figure 6) including retention members (portion of rear support 227 and opposite of rear support 227, see figure 6) operable to retain the liquid crystal display (28) in length (see element 28), width (see element 28) and thickness (see element 28) dimensions, the retention members (portion of rear support 227 and opposite of rear support 227) including at least two opposing sidewalls in contact with the liquid crystal display (it appears retention members contain two side wall and in contact with 28, see figure 6); and a flexible conductor device (32) operably connected between the liquid crystal display (28) and a circuit board (26) wherein the integrally formed housing includes a rib (element 229, see columns 6-7) extending across at least a portion the display receptacle (225),

the rib (229, see columns 6-7) configured to define a slot between the rib and one of the two opposing sidewalls with the slot configured to retain the flexible conductor device (32) in a predetermined position within the receptacle (portion 225). Element 229 is configured to mate with element 30 and provided pressure to keep element 32 in place.

Regarding claim 3, 4: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, the arrangement wherein the integrally formed housing includes one or more side walls (portion of 14) and an end wall (portion 11) forming a meter circuit housing (10), the display receptacle (explain in claim 1) disposed within the meter circuit housing (10).

Regarding claim 5: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, the arrangement wherein the one or more side walls comprises a cylindrical side wall (see figures).

Regarding claim 6: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, the arrangement wherein the meter circuit housing further comprises snap features (see abstract) for receiving corresponding snap features secured to the circuit board.

Regarding claim 7: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, the arrangement wherein the display receptacle includes four side walls (see figures 3) and end retaining flanges (302) extending perpendicularly from the four side walls (see figure 3), at least one of the four side walls (see figure 3) including at least one detent (226 or portion of 30) for retaining the liquid crystal display in the thickness dimension.

Regarding claim 10: Moore discloses in figures 1-6, the arrangement wherein the rib includes a portion having an L-shaped cross section (it appears rib is an L shape).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-21 are allowed.

Regarding claim 17-21: Moore discloses in figure 3, a meter housing structure comprising: a base plate (base of elements 225, 228) supporting one or more meter blades (28, 32), a cover (301) having an open end (open end between elements 302, 303) and a closed end (planar portion of element 301), the open end (open end between elements 302, 303) including a periphery having a shoulder (elements 302, 303). Moore does not disclose the first housing having a periphery having an outward extending shoulder, the first housing also including at least one flexible extension extending at an angle from the first housing outward extending shoulder and wherein the cover shoulder engages the first housing outward extending shoulder so as to urge the flexible extension toward and against the base plate. There would be no motivation to make this modification.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/05/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regard claim 2: applicant argues that "a rib extending across at least a portion the display receptacle, the rib configured to retain the flexible conductor device in a predetermined position within the receptacle". This argument is not found to be persuasive because Moore discloses in figure 3, columns 6-7 that element 229 is configured to keep element 32 in place.

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Applicant's arguments, filed 09/05/2006 with respect to claims 17-21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 17-21 has been withdrawn.

Regarding claim 17-21: applicant argues that "the first housing having a periphery having an outward extending shoulder, the first housing also including at least one flexible extension extending at an angle from the first housing outward extending shoulder and wherein the cover shoulder engages the first housing outward extending shoulder so as to urge the flexible extension toward and against the base plate".

Reason for Allow

With respect to claim 17-21, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of the first housing having a periphery having an outward extending shoulder, the first housing also including at least one flexible extension extending at an angle from the first housing outward extending shoulder and wherein the cover shoulder engages the first housing outward extending shoulder so as to urge the flexible extension toward and against the base plate".

Relevant Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Bradshaw William M (US 1,969,499) teaches the watt-hour meter mounting, Lewis Morgan J (US 2,582,638) teaches the meter through box, Hammond Scott H (US 4,744,004) teaches the electricity meter, Langdon et al. (US 4,977,482) teaches the watt-hour meter socket, Germer et al. (US 5,001,420) teaches the energy meter.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-5983. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, REICHARD DEAN can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

HN

HUNG NGUYEN

11/03/2006


DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 11/13/06